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CLIMATE CHANGE

Cost-Effective GHG Mitigation Measures for California. Summary Report.
Center for Clean Air Policy, 19 January 2006
http://www.ccap.org/domestic/Summary%20Report-Final%20_1-19-06_.pdf

"Based on our independent analysis of greenhouse gas mitigation (GHG) options for the State of California, we conclude that Governor Schwarzenegger's goal of reducing GHG emissions to 2000 levels by 2010 can be met at no net cost to California consumers," stated Ned Helme, president of the Center for Clean Air Policy. The study describes a number of cost-effective ways to cut emission in the transportation and cement sectors, as well as options for sequestering carbon dioxide and methane emissions in the forestry and agriculture sectors.

Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States 2004.
Energy Information Administration, Office of Integrated Analysis and Forecasting, December 2005
ftp://ftp.eia.doe.gov/pub/oiaf/1605/cdrom/pdf/ggrpt/057304.pdf

"U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases in 2004 totaled 7,122.1 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO2e), 2.0 percent more than in 2003 (6,983.2 MMTCO2e). The 2004 increase in total greenhouse gas emissions is attributable primarily to a 1.7-percent increase in emissions of carbon dioxide, along with increases in emissions of nitrous oxide (5.5 percent) and methane (0.9 percent). Emissions of engineered gases—hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride—also increased, by 9.6 percent. The U.S. economy grew by 4.2 percent in 2004, the highest rate of growth since 1999. Consequently, U.S. greenhouse gas intensity (greenhouse gas emissions per unit of real economic output) was 2.1 percent lower in 2004 than in 2003. From 1990 to 2004, U.S. greenhouse gas intensity declined by 23 percent, or by an average of 1.9 percent per year."

ENERGY

Reducing Oil Use Through Energy Efficiency: Opportunities Beyond Cars and Light Trucks.
R. Neal Elliott, Therese Langer and Steven Nadel, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, January 2006
http://www.aceee.org/pubs/e061.htm

The report presents the breakdown of petroleum use in the U.S. by sector and discusses technologies and practices available to improve the efficiency of the major oil-consuming subsectors. These include freight trucks, industrial equipment and processes, and residential and commercial buildings.

Assessing State Long Range Transportation Planning Initiatives in the Northeast for Climate and Energy Benefits.
David Burwell, U.S. Department of Transportation, December 2005
http://climate.volpe.dot.gov/docs/final-bbg.pdf

This study identifies best state long range transportation planning (LRTP) practice for climate protection and energy efficiency outcomes. Given rapidly rising levels of domestic oil consumption and growing global attention to the challenge of GHG emissions, an analysis of strategic transportation planning initiatives to address how well energy and climate change issues are addressed in long range transportation planning is important.

ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Pilot 2006 Environmental Performance Index.
Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy and CIESIN, January 2006
http://www.yale.edu/epi/2006EPI_Report_Full.pdf

By identifying specific targets for environmental performance and measuring how close each country comes to these established goals, the Pilot 2006 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) provides benchmarks for current national pollution control and natural resource management results. The issue-by-issue and aggregate rankings facilitate cross-country comparisons both globally and within relevant peer groups. The EPI thus provides a powerful tool for improving policymaking and shifting environmental decision making onto firmer analytic foundations.

POLLUTION

Hazardous Waste: EPA Needs to Clarify the Types of Mercury Waste That Can Be Treated and Disposed of Using the Debris Regulations.
U.S. GAO, December 16, 2005
http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-06-99

EPA reported that in 2003, mercury-contaminated debris constituted about 12,000 metric tons—or about 0.4 percent of all mercury-containing waste and about 0.03 percent of all hazardous waste. However, EPA's data on mercury-contaminated debris may be incomplete. Reporting on the physical form of the waste (debris is one of many physical forms) is optional, and businesses did not submit this optional information in about 9 percent of instances when they reported treating and disposing of mercury-containing waste in 2003. In addition, EPA's reporting category for debris does not provide a complete list of items that EPA considers to be debris, and debris can be reported in other categories.

GAO recommends that EPA (1) clarify and better describe the types of waste that can and cannot be reported under the "debris" reporting category and (2) conduct further outreach to communicate the types of mercury-containing wastes that can be treated and disposed of according to the alternative treatment standards for debris. In oral comments on a draft of this report, EPA agreed with GAO's recommendations.

WATER

Beyond Privatization: Restructuring Water Systems to Improve Performance.
Gary Wolff, Eric Hallstein, Pacific Institute, December 2005
http://www.pacinst.org/reports/beyond_privatization/Beyond_Privatization.pdf

The report provides a framework for urban and rural municipal-level public decisionmakers to assess problems, identify possible solutions, and choose among these solutions. It provides practical information and examples about improving the effectiveness of water, wastewater, and stormwater systems, whether public or private. To illustrate critical points, the report offers numerous examples from the upper Midwest: the US states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and the Canadian province of Ontario.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

Global Status of Commercialized Biotech/GM Crops: 2005
Clive James, ISAAA (International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications), 11 January 2006
http://www.isaaa.org/kc/bin/briefs34/es/index.htm

Farmer demand has driven annual double-digit increases in biotech crop adoption since the crops were commercialized a decade ago. In 2005, four new countries and a quarter million more farmers planted biotech crops as part of an 11 percent increase in global biotech crop area, according to this report. (France resumed the planting of Bt maize in 2005). Since initial commercialization in 1996, global planted area of biotech crops has soared by more than fifty-fold from 1.7 million hectares in six countries to 90 million hectares in 21 countries in 2005. The 8.5 million farmers planting biotech crops in 2005 also marked a significant milestone as the 1 billionth cumulative acre, or 400 millionth hectare, was planted

INVASIVE SPECIES

Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management. Fiscal 2003-2005 Activities.
USDA, December 2005
http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/InvasiveSpecies/reports/PREISMFISCAL0305ACTIVITIES.pdf

This document discusses the objectives and activities of the Economic Research Service's Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management and reports important accomplishments for fiscal years 2003-05. Included are descriptions of the extramural research program and all funded projects, and a list of project outputs.